

Springerville Town Council
Minutes
May 18, 2005

Present: Mayor Kay Dyson, Mary Nedrow, Mark Baca, Scott Cray and Pete Hunt

Staff: Scott Garms, Town Manager, Larisa Bogardus Community Development Director, Sterling Solomon Town Attorney, Tom Malone Public Works Director, James Hamblin Finance Director, Sharon Pinckard Community Services Director

Public: None

1. Mayor Dyson called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm with everyone present.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Baca, followed by a moment of silence.
3. Public Participation: None
4. Manager, Council and Chamber Reports:

Councilman Cray reported he is still researching the two water users associations, Both draw from the Little Colorado River, but the Round Valley Water Users own the reservoirs, which gives them more water.

Mr. Garms reported that Tori Circle, Chiricahua and part of Springerville East will be paved in the coming week. If funds allow, additional paving will be done in June and definitely after the new fiscal year begins in July, probably later this summer or in the fall.

Budget workshops will begin in June and as many as necessary for council to feel comfortable with the town's finances will be held. Various staff will be attending a number of trainings this summer.

The town received a substantial Homeland Security grant, including \$80,000 for SCBAs for the fire department; \$50,000 for an enhanced Emergency Operation's Center at town hall, which will help pay for electrical and IT improvements in the old school; \$50,000 for GIS; and \$25,000 for optics for the police department.

Tickets are still available for the Chamber of Commerce's 50th anniversary dinner/dance/auction to be held May 21.

Mayor Dyson reported that the Center for Desert Archaeology has expressed concerns about the labor involved in backfilling the Casa Malpais site. Mr. Malone said he had discussed it with them as well. Mr. Garms said one possibility was building a new trail that would allow ATVs to haul small trailers up to the site. The trail could later be converted to an American's Disability Act access. Councilman Cray suggested using a cement mixer and slurry pump. Mr. Malone said a 90-foot vertical drop would make that difficult.

Sharon Pinckard reported that Councilman Cray was donating roofing for the ramada at the senior park. The senior association is planning a picnic May 20 and is asking the fire department to return the pool table to the senior center. An elder abuse conference is being held at Hon-Dah this week.

Mayor Dyson reported that the commemorative bricks sold to help fund the old schoolhouse renovations will be unveiled at Becker Park June 17 and suggested the council volunteer to serve at the ice cream social.

5. Minutes: Consideration of approval of the minutes of May 4, 2005 at 6:00pm

Mary Nedrow/Pete Hunt motion to approve the minutes of May 4, 2005.

Vote:	Ayes:	Kay Dyson Mary Nedrow Mark Baca Scott Cray Pete Hunt
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6. Ordinance 2005-005: Second reading and action regarding ordinance 2005-005 to replace Chapter 5.20 "Solicitors, Canvassers, Peddlers" of the Springerville Municipal Code.

Pete Hunt/Mark Baca motion to approve Ordinance 2005-005.

Vote:	Ayes:	Mary Nedrow Mark Baca Scott Cray Pete Hunt Kay Dyson
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7. Executive session: Attorney Solomon said he had not received the report he expected and recommended tabling this item.

Mary Nedrow/Pete Hunt motion to table this matter until a report is received.

Vote:	Ayes:	Mary Nedrow Mark Baca Scott Cray Pete Hunt Kay Dyson
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8. Wastewater management meeting: Mayor Dyson reported that she, Mr. Garms and Mr. Malone met with representatives of ADEQ, NAU, Arizona Game and Fish, the Town of Eagar, the Forest Service, and Little Colorado River Watershed Partnership to discuss how to convert the wastewater treatment plant to a lagoon system as it was designed for.

The engineer from ADEQ and the engineer from Game and Fish disagree on the existing plan.

A major point of dispute is the plan to link the plant with Eagar's system to accept their effluvia and, in an emergency such as a system failure, be able to pump sewage into their system. Another obstacle is Game and Fish's suggestion that the town line pond No. 1. Although records indicate the pond once had a natural clay lining, a more recent survey indicates that isn't the case. It is important to take the initiative in this project, otherwise the state will dictate what is to be done and how, Mayor Dyson said.

9. Little Colorado River Watershed Memorandum of Understanding: Authorizing the mayor to sign an MOU partnering with other entities in the LCR Watershed.

This stems from Item 8 and is a pledge that the town will work to find ways to better use water, conserve it and reuse it.

Councilman Hunt asked why so few had signed on. Mayor Dyson said the MOU had just been proposed and other organizations have not had time to vote.

Scott Cray/Mary Nedrow motion to authorize the mayor to sign the MOU.

Vote:	Ayes:	Kay Dyson Mary Nedrow Mark Baca Scott Cray Pete Hunt
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10. Resolution 2005-R010: A resolution presented by the police department adopting the national incident management system.

Mr. Garms explained that this is the same system followed by other agencies and is mandatory if the town wants to apply for FEMA funds and reimbursement monies in the future.

Mark Baca/Mary Nedrow motion to adopt Resolution 2005-R010 as presented.

Vote:	Ayes:	Kay Dyson
		Mary Nedrow
		Mark Baca
		Scott Cray
		Pete Hunt

11. Resolution 2005-R011: A resolution authorizing staff to submit an application for the Preserve America Community designation.

Ms. Bogardus explained that this would make the town eligible to apply for Preserve America grants in the future.

Pete Hunt/Mark Baca motion to adopt Resolution 2005-R011 as presented.

Vote:	Ayes:	Kay Dyson
		Mary Nedrow
		Mark Baca
		Scott Cray
		Pete Hunt

12. Resolution 2005-R012: A resolution authorizing the submission of an application for a Growing Smarter grant to update the town master plan and pledging matching funds for the project.

Mayor Dyson noted that this is consistent with the council's recently set goals. Mr. Garms said the matching funds were included in the coming year's budget.

Pete Hunt/Scott Cray motion to adopt Resolution 2005-R012 as presented.

Vote:	Ayes:	Kay Dyson
		Mary Nedrow
		Mark Baca
		Scott Cray
		Pete Hunt

13. Personnel Policy Amendments: Discussion and action regarding proposed amendments and changes to the town personnel policy Section 23 (Leave) and Section 24 (Sick Leave Bank).

Mr. Garms explained that the sick leave changes would provide an incentive to employees not to use sick leave by allowing them to sell up to 40 hours per year back to the town. He would prefer to pay people to be productive rather than for missing work.

The sick leave bank was created several years ago to help some employees with special situations. It is now creating a financial burden for the town. The town's short- and long-term disability coverage should fill any gaps after sick leave is exhausted. Employees will be allowed to donate vacation time to individuals if they wish.

Because the sick leave buy-back will have to be budgeted, Mr. Garms recommended making that part of the changes effective July 1, 2005, and the rest of the changes immediate.

Vice Mayor Nedrow observed that this is very similar to the federal government's policies. Department heads present said most of their employees support the proposal.

Scott Cray/Mary Nedrow motion to adopt the amendments and changes to the town personnel policy as presented, with the sick leave changes taking effect July 1, 2005, and all other changes effective immediately.

Vote:	Ayes:	Kay Dyson Mary Nedrow Mark Baca Scott Cray Pete Hunt
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14. Application for extension of premises/patio permit: A request from Richard Greer to expand the Coyote Creek Steakhouse to allow dancing, parties and banquets.

Mr. Garms said this is a formality and that the Department of Liquor Control will make the final decision. Councilman Cray expressed concern that neighboring residents were not notified of this proposal and that he knew one neighbor who was very unhappy with the noise from the existing establishment. Mr. Solomon said the Town of Taylor tried to fight the issuance of a license and lost.

Councilman Hunt agreed, saying he felt the public should be more involved in the process.

Mr. Garms said he thinks that is why councils are asked to sign off on such applications, because meetings are posted and open to the public. The possibility of the town notifying neighboring property owners was discussed. Councilman Baca said he felt this would only create unnecessary controversy in a situation the town has no control over anyway. It was mentioned that neighbors agreed to the original restaurant in exchange for having their roads paved. This will be done in the next few weeks.

Mary Baca/Mary Nedrow motion to approve the application as mandated.

Vote:	Ayes:	Kay Dyson Mary Nedrow Mark Baca Pete Hunt
	Nays:	Scott Cray

15. Adjournment:

Mark Baca/Mary Nedrow motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:03pm.

Vote:	Ayes:	Kay Dyson Mary Nedrow Mark Baca Scott Cray Pete Hunt
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Kay Dyson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Valentina Cordova, Town Clerk

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Springerville Town Council in regular session on Wednesday, May 18, 2005. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and a quorum was present.

Dated this 19th day of May, 2005

Larisa Bogardus, Community Development Dir.